

There have been no major wars fought on U.S. soil, and our needs are met when we are willing to toil.

We can start a new business, or work at the old,

Go in every day and do as we're told;

Or we can put out the effort, the time, and pray.

But isn't that the great advantages of the AMERICAN WAY.

Where else on earth can you say you're really free,

And sing that song of honor "My Country 'Tis of Thee"?

From north to south, and east to west,

We should be so thankful that we live in AMERICA, THE BEST.

HONORS FOR DECORATED WORLD WAR II VETERAN

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 1995

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great man, Albert J. Riley, who died shortly before we broke for the August recess. Al was the kind of man we don't hear enough about these days. He worked hard, raised a family, and served his community and his country.

Like many men in his generation, Al served in World War II. On his 30th mission with the 392d Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force 576th Bomb Squadron, Al was shot down and was held as a prisoner of war for 9 months. He was decorated as a war hero, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and the POW medal.

When he returned from the war, he worked for the New York Telephone Co., for 35 years while he and his wife, Ann, raised a family of nine children, two of who have died. The others grew up, married, and presented Al with 12 grandchildren. After retiring from the telephone company, Al joined several of his sons in the restaurant business. Anyone who ever went to Riley's Place knows that Al's success in that business came from treating customers as though they were family.

Al was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. It's people like Al Riley who have made this country what it is today.

TRIBUTE TO ALABAMA'S BANDMASTER, DR. JOHN M. LONG

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 1995

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, Alabama's beloved bandmaster, Dr. Johnny Long, retires this year after three decades as director of bands at Troy State University, Troy, AL. Instead of resting on his laurels, Johnny Long has always looked to the next goal and achieved it. This motto has served him well throughout his career as I'm sure it will in retirement.

His numerous achievements include past president of the prestigious American Band-

masters Association, and recipient of the 1994 Sudler Medal of Honor from the Sousa Foundation for his many contributions to the excellence of bands and band music. Johnny Long was also elected in 1994 to the National Band Association's Hall of Fame of Distinguished Band Conductors, becoming the youngest active bandmaster to be so honored.

Dr. Johnny Long inspires an uncommon passion for musical scholarship in all he touches. Witness the fact that over his career more than 200 of his former students have become active high school band directors and college music educators throughout the United States.

To be sure, the whole Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Johnny Long on this occasion of his retirement from nearly half a century of bandmastery.

A SALUTE TO ARTHUR C. AVRIL: 1995 GREATER CINCINNATI BUSINESS HALL OF FAME LAUREATE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 1995

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a prominent Cincinnati and a good friend, Arthur C. Avril, who will be inducted into the Greater Cincinnati Business Hall of Fame on September 20, 1995. We thank him for the vision and service that he has so generously given to the business community and the entire Greater Cincinnati area.

Mr. Avril graduated from the Ohio State University in 1925 where he studied mining engineering. Within 3 years of graduating, he had formed one of the first ready-mix concrete plants in the United States, Avril True Batch Concrete Co.

Mr. Avril designed one of the first ready-mix trucks to use a rotary drum, which prevents concrete from settling. His company supplied concrete for many projects, including 500,000 tons used to build Cincinnati's Union Terminal in the early 1930's. This project was the first in the United States to specify concrete on the basis of its strength, rather than the proportion of its materials.

In 1936, Mr. Avril formed a new company, Sakrete, to meet the growing need for smaller quantities of concrete. The secret to Sakrete's success was Mr. Avril's ability to recognize the needs of the do-it-yourself trade for small quantities of concrete. Today, Sakrete has 80 licensed operations around the world, and is a household name recognized for quality. Mr. Avril is also an internationally known inventor. He is the holder of 18 patents, including two new patents approved this year. Still working at 94 years old, Mr. Avril personifies the American dream.

All of us in Cincinnati congratulate Mr. Avril upon his induction into the Greater Cincinnati Business Hall of Fame. It is a deserved recognition of his many accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF BLAKESLEE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an exceptional city located in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This year, the city of Blakeslee, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding.

Blakeslee is located in Williams County in northwest Ohio. The area has a rich history dating back to earliest settlements in the Ohio territory. Its position above the St. Joseph River made it a favorite for pioneers traveling West. The city itself dates from its incorporation in 1895.

Today, Blakeslee is a community renowned for its civic pride and commitment to service. Throughout its history there has never been a lack of enthusiasm or volunteer labor for its many projects. The citizens have continually displayed the Ohio tradition of neighborliness and caring for others.

Mr. Speaker, anniversaries are a time to reflect upon past accomplishments. They are also a time to look toward new horizons. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the history and achievements of the city of Blakeslee and encouraging its citizens to continue to uphold its impressive legacy.

HONORING THE WINNERS OF HISPANIC INDEPENDENCE AWARDS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 1995

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Hispanic Independence Awards Ceremony that will be held on Saturday, September 16, 1995, at the General Motors Institute in my hometown of Flint, MI.

September is National Hispanic Heritage Month and the Hispanic Independence Awards Ceremony kicks off a month-long celebration of Hispanic culture, ideas, and achievements in Genesee County. The Hispanic community will once again honor individuals who have selflessly committed themselves to making Flint and Genesee County a better place in which to live.

Each award is named for a prominent deceased member of the Hispanic community who exemplified the ideas espoused by the award. The Pedro Mata Leadership Award is given to a person who has provided leadership, encouragement, and influence in the Hispanic community. This year's recipient is Mrs. Guadalupe "Lupe" Morgan. The Tano Resendez Award for community service is given to a person who has dedicated personal efforts to promoting civic and cultural activities. The award this year is being given to Mrs. Juanita Diaz. The Joe Benavidez Award for education is presented to a person who has supported educational issues relating to Hispanics of all ages. Mrs. Ana Maria Hufton is this year's recipient. The Labor Involvement Award is being given to Mr. Juan Diaz for his